

**MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY INITIATIVES (GOCI)  
MARYLAND COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS (MCIA)**

**MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER MEETING: September 14, 2009**

**Banneker-Douglas Museum  
84 Franklin Street  
Annapolis, Maryland  
7:00 - 9:00 P.M.**

**Present:** Chairwoman Auriel Fenwick, Vice Chair Thomas Windsor, II, Wanda Lee, Cornelius Allen Red Deer, Guy Wells

**Absent:** Virginia Busby, Kathryn E. Robbins Fitzhugh

**Staff Present:** Susan Driscoll, Agnes M. Smith

**I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME:** Commissioner/Chair Auriel Fenwick called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

**II. INVOCATION:** Chief Rudy Laughing Otter Hall

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion to approve minutes by Chair Auriel Fenwick  
Minutes were unanimously approved by Commission

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**SWEAT LODGE: COMMISSIONER GUY WELLS**

Commissioner Guy Wells noted that there is nothing new to report at this time.

**EDUCATION: COMMISSIONER WANDA LEE/COMMISSIONER CORNELIUS RED DEER**

Commissioner Wanda Lee spoke about the demographic study for Maryland's American Indian community. Commissioner Lee informed the Commission that she sent the request for the study to the major universities and asked them to send the reports directly to Administrator Keith Colston. It is her understanding that he has received several responses. She also noted that after the selection process, the school will be in charge of the document with feedback from the Commission.

Chair Fenwick responded that if enough information has been gathered that Commissioner Lee and Administrator Colston to make a decision on the selection of the school whom would be the best choice for the demographic study. Chair Fenwick asked the Education Committee to have a decision by Tuesday, September 22, 2009 during the teleconference.

Commissioner Cornelius Red Deer asked about the letters to the University of Maryland President, thanking him for re-instating the two Native American study courses.

Administrative Assistant Agnes M. Smith informed the Commission that the letter to President Mote as well as the letters to the superintendents, State and local boards went out.

Commissioner Lee briefly explained what letters the Commission was speaking about it. Letters were sent to superintendents, social study curriculum specialist and members of the boards of education concerning particular curriculum that the Commission thought they might consider which consist of Native American culture, history, etc. There was also a thank you letter that went to UMCP about two courses that they axed and was re-instated.

Commissioner Red Deer informed the Commission that the Finals for the NCAA Lacrosse is coming to Maryland. He noted that the Commission should do something with them since Native Americans invented the game.

Mr. Rico Newman spoke about some information that was shared at the Commission meeting held in Salisbury by the Education Deputy Secretary about standards of learning in the State of Maryland. At the time of the meeting in Salisbury it was said that nothing was in place at that time. It has come to his attention that they are about to develop standards of learning in Maryland. However, his concern is about where they are getting the information for the content. He has been unable to find out the source for their information. He spoke about the nearest model which is in Virginia, which is a good model. He noted that it seems social studies are becoming a step-child in education.

Commissioner Red Deer spoke about a disk by National Geographic for K-5, which speaks about the Captain John Smith Trail, Up and Down the Chesapeake Bay, how Natives live, etc. It is a whole curriculum that a teacher designed for other teachers to teach about Native American culture.

Chair Fenwick suggested that the Education Committee review the disk from National Geographic again and make sure it gets into the right hands. Also make sure the Education Department receive the right content.

Ms. Sherry Majors, Accohannock Indian Tribe told the Commission about their association with one of the professors from Salisbury University who recently was appointed to a federal commission and her target is Native American education in the public school system. They will have regular correspondence with her on this issue and they would be happy to report back to the Commission whatever she shares with them.

Commissioner Lee reminded the Commission that Ms. Marcie Taylor-Thoma, Social Study Coordinator, Maryland State Department of Education made it clear that the Department of Education does not break out Native American history. It is totally integrated. They are not teaching separate units. Commissioner Lee told the Commission that the entire curriculum can be found on the website. She also mentioned that the best way to teach something is integrated because the Non-Native experience in the new world was right along side the Native people. It's the best way to teach, but if

they run out of time they can simply choose which part they want to teach and leave out the Native experience since it is not broken out in separate standards or goals.

## **REPATRIATION: COMMISSIONER VIRGINIA BUSBY**

Mr. Newman spoke on behalf of Virginia Busby. The last Working Group on Native American Human Remains meeting was held in Annapolis. They are in the process of organizing two public forums, with one on the Eastern Shore and one on the Western Shore. The sessions will be for the community to offer suggestions. The Working Group on Native American Human Remains is not there to answer questions, but to hear recommendations and suggestions from the community. They are moving in the direction where something can be done to accomplish repatriation of the human remains that is being held. Hopefully the remains will go to four basic directions. Those locations are to be disclosed. They are being ironed out. They will be placed in locations that are safe and not subject to vandalism. Agreements need to be solidified with those areas where they are actually going to be interned. There are certain requirements under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGRA) that have to be met. The Maryland Historical Trust and the Commission goal is that it is imperative to get the remains back in the earth so they can continue their journey.

Mr. Bob Gajdys, Commission Designee, Working Group on Native American Human Remains spoke about a trust that has been built up with the five designees, archeological community and some of the State agencies. There is a climate of trust built up for the first time. It is because of this they have arrived at this point in time with an agreement in principle that they will be able to present to the public. There have been indications that the Governor is very interested in having some type of announcement and action for November. They also as a group recognize that there is still a lot of work to be done. They also will not be addressing initially as to what is going to happen in the future. They feel they want to get the brothers and sisters in the earth now and address what should be the process in the future. He noted that the feeling is that it should be a three part type control namely, Native, archeological community and the State on equal basis. He feels it will be an interest in extending the Working Group since there is still a great deal of work.

Chair Fenwick asked whether the Working Group on Native American Human Remains will meet the deadline that was initially set at least for the first part.

Mr. Gajdys answered that a report must be submitted to the Commission and the Secretary of the Department of Planning by the first of October. Yes they will have the report. Based on what the public says during the public forums will give a reaction on where we stand as far as principles are concerned. Also there maybe new ideas they haven't explored.

Chair Fenwick asked after the public meetings are there a scheduled meeting for the Working Group thereafter.

Mr. Gajdys answered that there are no scheduled meetings but the Working Group have been meeting every two weeks to get caught up with process.

Mr. Newman told the Commission that Charlie Hall has prepared a report that is being forwarded to the Governor on the progress that has been made to date.

V. **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:**

Administrator Keith Colston spoke about his title change. He mentioned that his title has been changed to Administrator. This was a change in the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives where Izzy Patoka is the Executive Director. He invited the Commission to view the website to review agendas, administrative reports and minutes. He spoke about various meetings and cultural events he has attended. Administrator Colston said that in the coming months he will be involved directly with the Indigenous people here in Maryland.

VI. **RECURRING BUSINESS:**

**American Indian Heritage Day**

Administrator Colston told the Commission that Ms. Joanne Shenandoah has offered her talent to be a part of the American Indian Heritage Day celebration. He spoke about the first American Indian Heritage Day which was held at the Miller Senate Office Building. He noted that this year as with every event we want to make it a little bigger and better. He spoke with her today and she gave him her requirements. This will be discussed with the Commissioners and Office. Everyone is on a shoe string budget at this time. This might be a barrier, but he will be reaching out to the community if they decide to go that route. He also spoke about the possibility of two locations that Development Coordinator Susan Driscoll is looking into which is the Miller Senate Office Building and the Hyatt in Cambridge.

There was a discussion that the Commission had already voted to have the event at the Senate Miller Office Building and to keep it simple. The Commission would like to have it at the Senate Miller Office Building unless it is impossible.

Development Coordinator Susan Driscoll mentioned that she presented several different opportunities to the Commission with the Banneker-Douglas Museum being one of them. The problem with the Banneker-Douglas Museum is that it only holds 150. She informed the Commission that negotiations are still going on with the Senate Miller Office Building. She mentioned that a late entry was the Hyatt in Cambridge who would like for the Commission to have meetings there. The Hyatt is giving the Grand Ball Room free but the cost would be the food. It is very expensive and sponsorship will be needed.

Chair asked if Ms. Shenandoah was secured for American Indian Heritage Day.

Administrator Colston said she is available for that date but is not secure since the Commission has to meet her requirements. It is in process.

Mr. Gadjys mentioned that Ms. Shenandoah performed at Jefferson Patterson Park in 2007 at the Patuxent Encounter Program. She loved the park and loved the State. She is

very anxious to do whatever she can for the Native people in Maryland. She was a big draw at the event when she performed.

Administrator Colston mentioned for the record that Ms. Vicky Childs and others at Jefferson Patterson Park have been a big help to initiate this for the Commission. This shows that unity that is being expressed here in the State with the Native American communities.

Mr. Newman spoke about the absence of the Governor last year. He recommended that with November coming upon us that it would be nice to have the Governor acknowledge through public airways about American Indian Heritage Month as well as American Indian Heritage Day which is a holiday. He said it would be nice to be acknowledged by the Governor in public areas about the presence of Native Americans in the State.

Chair Fenwick noted this was a fine recommendation and was happy that there was a voice here tonight Mr. Tony White, Communications Director, Governor's Office of Community Initiatives.

Mr. Tony White said that he will work with Administrator Colston to put together some talking points for the Governor so he can put out a recording. The Governor has a number of radio shows that he does on a bi-weekly basis as well as a monthly television show that he does with Maryland Public Television. He will work on that tomorrow and sees no reason why this can't be included in his talking points. He is going to work hard to try to get the Governor there for American Indian Heritage Day. The proclamation for the State holiday was something that he was very proud of and he made it clear that he wanted it to happen. He was very disappointed last year that he couldn't take part in it. He is going to try and put that on his calendar ahead of time.

Chair Fenwick asked when the sound bytes are needed.

Communication Director White noted that sound bytes are needed within the next thirty (30) days by October 14, 2009. This gives him time to coordinate in the interim.

Administrator Colston told the community that they send the information through their Commission representatives who will formulate it to the Chair and he and the Chair will get together with Communication Director White.

Mr. Gajdys mentioned to Communication Director White that the Working Group on Native American Human Remains would have something that the Governor could use to make an announcement. If he could announce for American Indian Heritage month that 139 Native people who have been sitting in dust for 55 years will now be put back in the ground. That is something positive for American Indian Heritage Month, political press for him, etc.

Commissioner Cornelius Red Deer said that maybe a letter could be drafted for the radio and television stations to let all of the State know that it is American Indian Heritage Day.

Communication Director White informed the Commission that there is a standing invitation with WEAA Morgan State University radio station. He said that they will also look at most of the campus radio stations.

Administrator Colston said if there is something in reference to American Indian Heritage Month as well as other activities that the community would like for the Commission to expound on please submit to the Commission and they will forward them to him. The Governor does put out a press release on accomplishments, etc. that he wants to promote on things that is being done.

Ms. Majors said that one of the issues that can bring American Indian Heritage Month home to Maryland is that the Maryland Indians was the first watermen. It would be really nice to see some of the old remembered ways on some of the sound bytes.

Administrator Colston said that the information will not only be utilized by MCIA but throughout other agencies and areas.

Commissioner Red Deer asked Development Coordinator Driscoll about confirmation for the Native American Writing and Art Contest for high school students for Native American Heritage Day planning.

Development Coordinator Driscoll said that an offer has come from The Fabian Coulker Foundation to sponsor a Native American Writing and Art Contest in four different categories. It would be for juniors and seniors in Maryland schools. The Coulker Foundation would give prizes for the top two writers in each of four categories. Proposing that the writing samples be bound with some type of artwork on the front and back cover. This is the art contest. She said that it is \$200/\$150 to the winner of each writing contest, \$100 to 2<sup>nd</sup> place and \$400 to artist. She is waiting for it to be submitted in writing so she can e-mail it to Commission.

Ms. Storm Owens asked if there will be a list of guidelines pertaining to the art contest piece posted on the website or be easily obtainable. She told the Commission that she taught in Baltimore County and as far as art contest are concerned will they really specify the criteria. She said different artist interprets what writing they will choose, what format, pictures, materials can and can't be used, etc. There needs to be a thorough listing so that the children will not be left unaware.

Development Coordinator Driscoll said that she will check with the foundation to make sure that the specifications are thoroughly stated.

Mr. Newman informed the Commission that at this time there is an art exhibit at the National Museum of the American Indian which is an annual art contest sponsored by a large firm, Washington State and the American Indian Bar Association. This project had to be restricted to members of federal and state recognized tribes. He spoke about his testimony at the House Hearing that they as a non-recognized people are subject to federal law of the American Indian Art Act. Any organization is subject to it if they are promoting any kind of art that is advanced as American Indian art whether it is the people that produced it or the artist is an American Indian. You have to be very careful about the language. He also noted that the penalties start somewhere around \$9,000 and up.

All it takes is for one person to see this and take perception to it and drop a dime with the Interior Department and you are looking at big fines. The language must be explicit and that it is somehow obvious that it is not American Indian art or it is not produced by an American Indian unless that person is from a recognized tribe.

Development Coordinator Driscoll noted that the proposal letter from the foundation will be reviewed by Phil Deters. She also said that the foundation wanted to work with Maryland schools and will not except submissions from those home schooled.

Administrator Colston wanted to remind the community that when suggestions are brought up in the audience it has to be held only as suggestions. A vote can't be taken at the public meetings on issues until it has been reviewed through the legal entities. This is a helpful reminder to the community when they come to the meetings with serious issues or suggestions they want to bring to the Commission.

The Commission will have a Tele-Conference Call Meeting on Tuesday, September 22, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

Administrator Colston spoke about an event on the Eastern Shore that was sponsored by the Governor's Office of Minority Affairs that was suppose to expound on Native involvement and that was not the case. This was on the agenda since it was discussed at the last meeting according to the minutes. He told the Commission that the details are going to be explained on what occurred.

Development Coordinator Driscoll noted that at one of the last meetings Mr. Wendell Sutton, Deputy Secretary, Governor's Office of Minority Affairs, suggested from things that he viewed during the Capacity Building Workshop on the Eastern Shore for the Native American community in May, to do a business conference for the Native American community. Originally it was going to be held at Cambridge or Salisbury. After speaking to his staff person she was informed that it had already been in the works but had been modified to include all minorities and moved to UMES. The Commission is negotiating with him to do another one that will be more specific to the Native American community. She also spoke about a member of the Small Business Administration contacting the Commission to see if we would like to do a conference. She said that maybe the two can be combined.

Mr. Newman mentioned that some years ago he attended a all in all minority conference held at BWI airport. He told the Commission that they were way out numbered, out talked, etc. There is a need for something separate and specific for the Native Americans. He also noted that there should be another Capacity Building Workshop on the Western Shore. The largest Native American community resides in the Western Shore.

## VII. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Chair Fenwick spoke about an Advisory Committee being formed so that the different communities can be informed about what's going on at the different departments of the Governor's office.

Administrator Colston told the Commission that MCIA has five standing committees and one is the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee should be individuals that the Chair will select with the help of the Administrative office and bringing these individuals to the table where they are to assist, advise, keep informed, etc. He noted some of the agencies which include Health and Mental Hygiene, Education, Business and Economic Development, Housing and Community Development and the Department of Natural Resources. He said that not only should the Advisory Committee be put in place, but all of them should be put in place.

Chair Fenwick said that the Advisory Committee is vital to the community as a whole. This is the first committee that she wants in place.

Administrator Colston will be contacting secretaries from the various agencies and asking them to aid in appointing individuals that will be MCIA's contact and can physically meet.

Ms. Owens spoke to the Commission about a letter that came across her computer from a Ph.D. Dr. from Morgan State University who had to do a thesis on whether there were any Native Americans in the State of Maryland. It was said that Native Americans were a myth, that they no longer exist. Whenever something is done as far as Native Americans are concerned it needs to be specified the needs and necessity of people understanding the background of what we are trying to preserve and bring forward.

Administrator Colston spoke about the Complete Count Committee for Census 2010. He noted that Director David K. Lee will be meeting in DC with the federal representatives of the U.S. Census Bureau. He has been supplied materials about the Native American communities. The Governor wants to have Complete Count Committees in every ethnic community. It is better to have people that live in the community to take the message to the community.

Chair Fenwick nominated Commissioner Red Deer as the representative for MCIA for Census 2010 Committee.

#### **VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Mr. Gajdsy announced if anyone wants to vote at the Native American Music Awards it must be done by September 30, 2009. They can vote at [nativeamericanmusicawards.com](http://nativeamericanmusicawards.com)

This will be put on MCIA's website as a link.

Chief Ray Core introduced new Chief EkKhon Vaughn, Appalachian Nation-Cherokee to the Commission. He spoke about a law that the Oklahoma Cherokees is trying to make it a law that it is illegal to be a Cherokee unless you belong to the Oklahoma Tribe. He noted that his Nation has been in the Appalachian Mountain for six hundred years. There are over 18,000 in his Nation.

Chief EkKhon Vaughn said that there are petitions on-line because they are trying to outlaw anyone mentioning, speak for, associate, identify or affiliate in any way as being a Cherokee descent unless you are affiliated with those particular tribes. This is hurtful to



all Native Americans. He is passing this information to the Commission to be forwarded to government officials.

Nause Waiwash Pau Wau, Vienna, September 19 – 20, 2009

Accohannock Gospel Jamboree, September 26, 2009

Appalachian Nation Cherokee Pow Wow, October 3-4, 2009 Vienna, VA

Chair Fenwick thanked everyone for coming out.

***MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING:*** Commissioner Guy Wells

***SECONDED MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING:*** Full Commission

Meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m.